02-277

From: Tedd Webb
To: Mike Powell

Date: Thu, Jan 30,2003 10:09 AM

Subject: Deregulation

Michael Powell Chairman The Federal Communications Commission Washington, DC

Dear Commissioner Powell,

I was disturbed by your recent comments that "we don not need town hall meetings to discuss the future of deregulation in the broadcast business."

As an employee of Clear Channel Communications, I can tell you it is no picnic. What has become of the business I loved so much, is heart breaking.

You have 3 companies. Clear Channel, Cox, and CBS/Infinity owning the largest pieces of the puzzle

In Clear Channel (1170 radio stations state side), they buy stations, fire staff and run the station by 'voice tracking'. More and more people in my field are losing their jobs, good professionals with great track records are out on the street.

The industry now has no 'minor leagues' in which to groom youngsters, those stations in small markets, the breeding grounds for new talent now run 'syndicated programming', cheaper than paying a salary benefits, etc.

It is very sad to see your passion going down the drain, the career you have poured 40 years into becoming a robot run industry.

Stations were indigenous to an area. You could tell you were in Miami by the sound of the radio stations in that town. Same for Atlanta, New York, Philly, LA. Now it's one **size** fits all. Same jocks heard in Tampa can be heard in St Louis, Kansas City. etc.

At one time, a station had to prove it was 'serving the community' to get its license renewed by the FCC, I challenge you to find a station 'serving the community'. At our station in Tampa, we are the only 'live show'. At 9 **AM** we go to syndication and our community is no longer served. Our programming comes from Philadelphia, New York and Los Angeles, it does not focus on the community of Tampa Bay. It does not serve Tampa Bay. No more PSAs for the Boy Scouts or the local Rotary Clubs.

Deregulation was a bad idea in 1996, more deregulation today is a horrible idea, please don't let it happen on your watch.

Sincerely

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